

Fight looms over Smart gravestone

By Diana Brown
Eagle-Tribune Writer

DERRY, N.H. — Pamela Smart and her in-laws may end up in court again to fight over Gregory Smart's gravestone.

Gregory's father, William Smart, said he wants to either remove the stone marker or Pamela's inscription on it: "A life that touches the hearts of others lives on forever."

"This thing is getting out of here," Mr. Smart said. He laid flowers on the mauve-colored gravestone after Pamela Smart was found guilty of plotting his son's murder.

Mrs. Smart purchased the plot and gravestone. Her father-in-law bought the three adjoining plots for other family members.

Mrs. Smart told her friend, Sonia Simon, she was devastated by plans to remove the stone and questioned whether they could legally take it.



The stone: Gregory Smart's gravestone

Jurors: We weren't swayed

They bristle at rumors of media influence

By Linda Bean
Eagle-Tribune Writer

EXETER, N.H. — Jurors who heard evidence in the Pamela Smart case are outraged at suggestions their deliberations were tainted by gossip or the media.

"We were very, very careful," said Charlotte Jefts, who at 74 was the oldest member of the jury. "When I heard her mother saying that, I couldn't believe it."

Linda Wojas, Pamela Smart's mother, complained to Judge Douglas Gray last week that an anonymous caller told her a member of the seven-woman, five-man panel was talking about the case outside the jury deliberation room.

Judge Gray "called the person in and he denied it or explained it away or whatever," said Beth Wojas, Pamela's sister. "The judge apparently decided it was not enough to do anything more about it."

Although Mrs. Jefts was the only juror contacted who was willing to speak on the record, others said they were stung by Mrs. Wojas' accusation.

"I can't believe that any such thing happened," said one.

"It is simply untrue," said another.

"If there were something wrong, I cannot imagine they would have let that juror stay on the jury," said Mrs. Jefts. "This is just ridiculous."

She also suggested the complaint was engineered to supply the defense with ammunition during its appeal of the case.

"They are going to appeal; they have to say something," she said.

Assistant Attorney General Paul Maggiotto said his office will continue to investigate Mrs. Wojas' complaint. One of the first steps, he said, might be determining who made the telephone call.

Mrs. Smart's lawyers, Paul Twomey and Mark Sisti, refused to comment on the investigation.